

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE PENSIONS BOARD

HELD AT 10.00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2015

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON E14 2BG**

Members Present:

George Bruce (Chair)	(Interim Chair for the meeting)
Councillor Dave Chesterton (Member)	
Andrew Crompton (Member)	
Minesh Jani (Member)	(Head of Audit and Risk Management , Resources)

Other Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Anant Dodia	– (Pensions Manager)
Kevin Miles	– (Chief Accountant, Resources)
Bola Tobun	– (Investments and Treasury Manager, Resources)
Ngozi Adedeji	– (Team Leader Housing Services, Legal Services, Law Probity & Governance)
Antonella Burgio	– (Democratic Services)

INTRODUCTIONS

George Bruce, introduced himself and informed all present that he had been invited to act as interim Chair for the inaugural meeting pending the appointment of an independent Chair. He welcomed all to the meeting and asked each person attending to introduce themselves and state their role at the meeting.

QUORUM

It was noted that no employee representative was present at the meeting and therefore the meeting was inquorate. On the recommendation of the Interim Administrative Chair, it was agreed that the meeting would proceed on an informal basis and the proceedings ratified at the next quorate meeting.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

It was noted that George Bruce had been invited to act as administrative Chair for the duration of the meeting pending the appointment of an independent Chair as prescribed in New LGPS regulations.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from employee representative Stephen Thompson and his deputy Mike Markson

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

3. PENSIONS BOARD REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 PENSIONS BOARD, MEMBERSHIP, QUORUM AND DATES OF MEETINGS

The Clerk presented the report which asked members to note their powers and responsibilities under legislation and to determine their preferred meeting time.

Members discussed the preferred meeting time and determined that future meeting would take place at 10am. Members then noted that the scheduled date of 17th September was not convenient and agreed that an alternative meeting date should be canvassed.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the report be noted.
2. That future meetings be held at 10.00am
3. That the meeting scheduled for 17 September 2015 be postponed and an alternative date be canvassed amongst the Board members.

3.2 PENSIONS BOARD UPDATE JULY 2015

The Administrative Chair introduced the reported and highlighted the following matters:

- The role of the Board in accordance with regulations
- That a basic understanding of pensions functions was required of Board Members
- Core and non-core functions as set out on page 16 of the report

In discussion, Members raised the following issues:

- There was a need for a clear mechanism by which Fund members could raise their concerns

- There was need for a clear mechanism where by the work of the Board could be communicated to Fund members

The Board recommended that its Terms of Reference should be displayed in each meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the report and discussion be noted
2. That the Pension Board Terms of Reference be displayed in each published agenda

3.3 LGPS GOVERNANCE TRAINING

The Administrative Chair asked members to consider how they wished to undertake the required training. Following discussion the Board determined that an appropriate training plan be devised to include the following elements:

- Governance Framework
- Actuarial Methods
- Accounting Audit
- Procurement
- Investment Products

RECOMMENDED

1. That the requirement for training be noted and
2. That a training plan be devised and brought to a future meeting
3. That an in-house training session be arranged and notified to members of the Board

3.4 PENSION FUND BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2015/16

The Administrative Chair introduced the item which asked members to consider its business/work plan and what matters it wished to incorporate into the plan. Members agreed that issues of Fund sustainability should be added to the plan.

RECOMMENDED

That a draft plan be drawn up and presented at the next meeting.

3.5 INVESTMENT IN LONDON LGPS COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV)

The Investments and Treasury Manager introduced the report which provided an update on the establishment of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV). The Board heard that:

- the body had recently been incorporated and registered with FCA.
- The share capital of LBTH LGPS would be £75,000
- During the recent budget statement, the Government had indicated that it favoured national pooling.

RECOMMENDED

That the update be noted.

3.6 PENSION FUND INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR QUARTER END 31 MARCH 2015

The Investments and Treasury Manager introduced the report which informed the Board of the performance of the Fund's investment managers in the quarter ending 31 March 2015. The Administrative Chair highlighted the opportunities afforded to the Board to monitor the performance of the Fund and ensure that it was kept abreast of financial markets

RECOMMENDED

That the quarterly investment performance review for the quarter ending 31 March 2015 be noted.

3.7 2014/15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Accountant introduced the report which provided the draft annual accounts for the Board to consider prior to referral to the Council's external auditors. It was suggested that the external auditors be invited to the Board's forthcoming meeting to discuss their findings, the processes employed in operating the Fund and how this complied with legislation.

RECOMMENDED

That the draft accounts be noted.

4.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

The Board was asked to respond to a canvass to be undertaken to determine a suitable date for the forthcoming meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.

Interim Chair, George Bruce
Pensions Board